FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 JULY 1984

Israel

Election Aftermath — With only the soldiers' votes to be counted on 26 July, the political "deadlock" resulting from the elections for the 11th Knesset has led the two major parties to woo the smaller parties, Jerusalem television reported. According to a television correspondent, the Labor Party is considering a national unity government in a "favorable light," although IDF radio pointed out that this does not appear to be a realistic possibility for the Alignment, which the Labor Party heads. The television correspondent added that Likud will be unable to establish a coalition without 'Ezer Weizman's Yahad Party, and the Alignment will be unable to do so without some of the religious parties. To this end, Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres conferred with National Religious Party leader Yosef Burg, and Labor's Yitzhaq Navon met with SHAS official 'Ovadya Yosef, the correspondent noted. Burg was also received by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on 25 July and both men expressed the hope that a national unity government will be formed, IDF radio reported. According to Jerusalem radio, Yahad also reiterated its support of a national unity government, but stressed that if such a government cannot be formed it will support an "alternative government." Meanwhile, the Hadash Party spokesman emphasized that his party will oppose both a Likud government and a national unity government, Jerusalem radio disclosed. Progressive List for Peace leader Muhammad Mi'ari added in remarks broadcast by the radio's Arabic service that his group will never cooperate with the Likud or with the "racists and radicals."

Foreign Reaction — Reacting to the Israeli election results, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid expressed the hope that the Israeli Government will have a positive vision of peace, and will move to solve the problems regarding Lebanon, the Palestinians, and the Tabah area, Cairo radio reported. Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali added that he hopes a new, strong government will be formed as soon as possible so peace negotiations can be started.

Meanwhile, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' stated that the election results reflect the crisis Israel has been experiencing since its invasion of Lebanon, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The Syrian paper *TISHRIN* added in a commentary cited by Damascus radio that there is no difference between the Likud and the Alignment on general policy, that they are "two faces of the same coin" with the common policy to usurp more Arab land and make Israel the "main instrument for implementing U.S. policy in the region."

Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri also asserted in a statement to WAKH that the two major parties are basically the same. He said the results reveal an "acute split" in Israeli society. An Amman radio commentary stated that in the wake of the elections, peace has become "more unattainable than ever before."

A Baghdad Voice of PLO radio commentary warned that the election results indicate that Israel cannot free itself from its critical situation without resorting to its "traditional option," war. Hopes of reaching a "certain settlement" with the Labor Party have faded, although it was always considered that the assumption of power in Israel of any party would be the same. PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi stated that the results underline the magnitude of the acute crises and difficulties afflicting Israel, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Foreign Currency Tax — Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad announced a 15-percent value added tax onthe purchase of foreign currency for the travel allowance and on the import of services from abroad, ITIM reported. These and other regulations concerning foreign currency supervision will apply for an interim period of 3 months, the minister added, and are aimed at stemming the "panic and unjustified premonitions" regarding devaluations of currency.

Lebanon

Closure of Israeli Mission — Israel has closed its liaison office in Ad-Dubayyah and the Israeli officials working there were flown home early on 25 July, Jerusalem radio announced. The decision was taken earlier this week by Prime Minister Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens after the Lebanese Government resolved to withdraw protection for the office. The Lebanese guards were withdrawn from the building on 24 July, the radio noted.

Commenting on the implications of the closure of Israel's mission, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Jerusalem radio stressed that Israel will remain as free as ever to safeguard its security interests and its northern border and that it will maintain contacts with its numerous friends in Lebanon. The spokesman contended that the Lebanese Government's recent moves are against Lebanon's interests and will cause harm and suffering to the Lebanese people. Uri Lubrani, the coordinator of Israeli activities in Lebanon, told the radio that Lebanese-Israeli coordination and contacts will henceforth be more difficult, adding that under present circumstances "we will maintain our contacts only in southern Lebanon." As for the effects on trade, Lubrani pointed out that licenses for passage into southern Lebanon will no longer be obtainable in Beirut, thus presenting merchants with a "very difficult problem"

Karami Tour — Prime Minister Rashid Karami will leave for Damascus on 26 July at the start of an Arab tour including a visit to Saudi Arabia to discuss economic assistance, Beirut radio reported. In his talks with the Syrians, Karami will review the internal security situation and will seek Syrian backing for a security plan for northern Lebanon, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

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South Asia

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USSR-Karmal Attack Repulsed in Qandahar

BK251053 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have repulsed the Soviet-Karmal forces' attack launched to recapture a military post at Pashmul in Qandahar Province.

SPA on Rebel Clashes With Soviet, DRA Troops

LD221405 Riyadh SPA in English 1219 GMT 22 Jul 84

[Text] Islamabad, July 22, SPA — A Soviet Army general and 40 communist troops were killed by Afghan mujahidin in a fierce encounter in Pashmul, near Qandahar in south-eastern Afghanistan, last week, the mujahid press agency reported today.

The Peshawar-based agency of the Afghan resistance said one mujahid was killed and four others injured during the fighting.

On the other hand, the Afghan freedom fighters have shot down seven Soviet MIG aircraft and eight helicopters as their siege of Afghan government garrison at Zazi in Afghanistan's eastern Paktia Province entered its tenth week yesterday, the AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS said.

It quoted Professor Abdul Rabar-Rasool al-Sayyiaf, president of a seven-party Peshawar-based Afghan mujahidin grouping as saying that 50 Soviet Red Army officers and nearly 1,000 Afghan government troops were present in the garrison besieged by mujahidin since second week of last May.

He added that nearly 800 resistance fighters are commanding the siege and that the MIGs and helicopters were downed by them during intermittent bombing raids made by the Soviets on the mujahidin positions.

In another report, the agency said 13 Soviet-Afghan government troops were killed and two Soviet tanks destroyed during a resistance operation carried on July 12 in Tangi, near Sarowbi, east of Kabul.

One mujahid was martyred and ten others injured during the operation, it added.

SPA: 26 June Attack Detailed

LD242114 Riyadh SPA in English 1909 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] London, July 24 , SPA — Thirty Soviet-Karmal troops were killed and 10 military vehicles destroyed during a surprise attack launched by the mujahidin on a military convoy moving from Kabul to Gardeyz on June 26, the AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS reported.

The agency said destroyed [as received] the vehicles with rocket launchers and seized two oil tankers, a mobile workshop and a military truck.

State Assistance Provided for 7,000 Hajj Pilgrims

LD241115 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0503 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Kabul, July 23, BAKHTAR — Respect to the principles of Islam and their observance are a part of the state policy of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. Therefore, many facilities have been provided by the government to the Afghan Muslims to make hajj pilgrimage to Mecca this year. This was stated by a spokesman of the Department of Islamic Affairs of the DRA to the daily *HERAT* correspondent.

According to the directive of the Council of Ministers the DRA, seven thousand persons will go for hajj this year.

Each haji going for hajj will receive an assistance of 28 thousand afghanis from the government of the DRA in the form of subsidy in air fare and exemption from payment of service charges and donation to the Afghan Red Crescent Society. A team of five persons for rendering guidance and assistance and a medical team for providing medical services to the Afghan hajis will go to Mecca.

The services provided by both the teams will be free of charge and the entire expenditure will be borne by the government of the DRA.

Ershad Returns, Comments on ICO Meeting

BK211055 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 21 Jul 84

[Excerpt] The president and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, has described the deliberations of the Islamic Conference Organization peace committee meeting in Jidda as very useful and constructive. He was talking to newsmen on arrival at Zia International Airport yesterday evening after attending the (?sixth) meeting of the 9-member committee. The president said the meeting was highly significant as it was held after about 2 years and discussed in detail all possible avenues to bring the protracted fraticidal war between Iran and Iraq to a halt through peaceful means.

AFP: Ershad Addresses Janadal Rally on Elections

BK221459 Hong Kong AFP in English 1428 GMT 22 Jul 84

[Text] Dhaka, July 22 (AFP) — Bangladesh military ruler lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad today told a public rally in Dhaka that the elections for Parliament this winter would be free and fair.

Lieut. Gen. Ershad was refuting apprehensions by the opposition that the December 8 poll — the first at the national level under the 27-month military regime — may not be impartial in view of the expected participation of the military ruler and his new party Janadal.

The rally, organized by the Janadal, took place under strict security Janadal and drew a crowd of about 20,000 crowd, according to an independent estimate. [sentence as received]

But organisers claimed there were more than 100,000 people at the first political rally by Janadal since the 55-year-old general announced last week that he would join active politics by the year end.

In his 25-minute address, Lieut. Gen. Ershad accused without naming Bangladesh's two former ruling parties — the Awami League and BNP [Bangladesh National Party] — of backing out from their promises to the people. But he said he had fulfilled most of his commitments and pledges after he came to power.

Earlier, the crowd booed and hoisted shoes in disapproval when a recently inducted minister, Korban Ali, rose to address the rally. Mr Ali, who was a veteran Awami League leader until he joined Janadal and the government early this month had to cut short his speech.

In a resolution, the rally urged General Ershad to contest future election for presidency as a candidate of Janadal. No date for the presidential poll was announced.

Lieut. Gen. Ershad, whose extended term in the army is due to expire later this year, is not holding any position in Janadal where half of his Cabinet ministers are members.

Meeting Adopts Confidence Resolution

BK230934 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] The president and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, has said he stands for politics of trust and not of [word indistinct]. He was addressing a mammoth mass rally at the stadium square in Dhaka yesterday organized by the metropolitan Janadal in connection with expressing people's solidarity with the present government's programs and policies. The president called for making concerted efforts irrespective of political affilitations to build a happy and prosperous new Bangladesh. The new Bangladesh, as he visualizes, will be completely free from corruption, oppression, and miseries. Referring to the present government's steps to establish a lasting and sound democratic order in the country, President Ershad said he has already announced the date for the parliamentary elections in the country. Union Parishad and Paurasabha [district and municipal council] polls had already taken place with unprecedented people's participation.

About the opposition demand for the lifting of martial law, General Ershad said it could have been withdrawn by now had the polls been held as scheduled on the 27th of May last. He urged the opposition leaders to take part in the parliamentary polls on the 8th of December and get their popularity tested. He made it clear that neither he nor his government will believe in rigging, and elections will surely be fair and impartial.

In a unanimously adopted resolution, the meeting expressed full confidence in the leadership of President Ershad for leading the country toward self-reliance and expressed solidarity and continued support in his government's programs and policies. The meeting also expressed gratitude and thanks to the Armed Forces and the present administration for [word indistinct] contribution in the development activities of the country after the 24th March 1982. It further expressed its gratitude to the government for taking necessary steps for satisfactory [word indistinct] in the country.

The meeting, presided over by the president, was addressed among others by the prime minister, Mr Ataur Rahman Khan; the minister for local government and secretary general of Janadal, Mr Mahbubur Rahman; the minister for jute and textiles, Mr Korban Ali; and the labor and manpower minister, Shah Moazzam Hossain.

PRC Air Force Commander Calls on Ershad

BK240653 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] The leader of the visiting Chinese military goodwill delegation and commander of the Chinese Air Force, Commander Zhang Tingfa, paid a courtesy call on President Ershad at Banga Bhavan in Dhaka yesterday. The chief of air staff and deputy chief martial law administrator, Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud, and the Chinese ambassador in Bangladesh, Mr Xiao Xiangqian, were also present on the occasion.

The commander later met the chief of air staff at his office. The final round of talks were held at the air headquarters in a very cordial atmosphere and matters of mutual interest were discussed. The members of the Chinese delegation and senior officers of the Bangladesh Air Force were also present during the discussion.

Earlier, the delegation visited the defense services command and staff college at Mirpur. During his visit, the leader of the Chinese delegation exchanged ideas with the student officers and appreciated the standard of training and other facilities.

AFP: Chinese Visitors Depart

BK241608 Hong Kong AFP in English 1551 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Dhaka, July 24 (AFP) — Chinese Air Force chief, Commander Zhang Tingfa, left here today for home after a week-long goodwill visit to Bangladesh, the Defence Ministry said.

During his stay here, Commander Zhang paid a courtesy call on military ruler and President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, met other government leaders and held several rounds of talks with his counterpart Sultan Mahmud.

A Defence statement only said that at the final round of talks held yesterday "in a most cordial atmosphere, matters of mutual interests were discussed."

China is one of the major military suppliers for Bangladesh whose Air Force and Navy are at present largely equipped with Chinese-made fighters and gunboats.

The Chinese Navy chief visited Dhaka last November followed by a visit to Beijing by Bangladesh Air Chief Sultan Mahmud in January. Commander Zhang, who arrived on July 17 at the head of an eight-member military delegation, had come from a similar visit to Sri Lanka.

Briefs

Outgoing U.S., USSR Envoys — Mrs Jane A. Coon, the outgoing ambassador of the United States to Bangladesh, paid a farewell call on the prime minister, Mr Ataur Rahman Khan, at his office in Dhaka on 22 July. Mrs Jane A. Coon stayed with him for some time. The Soviet ambassador to Bangladesh, Mr V.P. Stepanov, made a farewell call on the information minister, Mr Mohammad Shamsul Haq, at the secretariate in Dhaka 22 July. [Excerpt] [Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 23 Jul 84 BK]

Gandhi Clarifies Stand on Punjab for Parliament

BK241623 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Both houses of Parliament spent most of their time today discussing the White Paper on the Punjab agitation. The discussion remained inconclusive and will be resumed tomorrow. Intervening in the debate in the Rajya Sabha, the prime minister said while the government will do everything to remove the sense of alienation and rebuild the bridges of friendship, it will under no circumstances allow the nation's unity to be threatened. Recalling the immense sufferings of the people of Punjab as a result of the activities of the terrorists, Mrs Gandhi said that the government is firm not to allow religious places to become arsenals or shelter for criminals. What has happenned in the Golden Temple should not be repeated anywhere.

Refuting the opposition allegation that the Army action in Amritsar was aimed at gaining political advantage, Mrs Gandhi said no government wants violence. Violence always goes against the government, and such a charge was ridiculous. Government has always tried to solve the Punjab problem in the national perspective and the opposition was associated in the talks with the Akali leaders.

Rejecting the charge that the action in Punjab was delayed deliberately, Mrs Gandhi said no action was taken earlier because the opposition leaders and others were saying that we can come to an understanding with the Akalis. The prime minister reaffirmed that the action was not against the Sikh community, nor against Sikh religion. It was not even against the Akali Dal. It was only against the terrorists who gained control of the situation.

Striking the personal note, Mrs Gandhi pointed out that she always had a close and friendly relationship with the Sikh community. Mrs Gandhi said there had been attacks against her and the country by powerful external forces because the country had progressed against all odds, getting over problems of aggression and natural calamities. The country had reached the level which few developing countries have with much greater help from outside. This is the background in which we have to view attempts of intervention by some foreign powers. She pointed out that the demand for a separate Sikh state was not raised by the Indian citizens but those who had gone out and prospered. They are not conversant with the situation in India. Mrs Gandhi did not agree with the charge that Sikhs were being discriminated against. They have occupied many important places. When the government wanted to publish statistics about this, a remark was made that it might create a feeling against them.

Mrs Gandhi rejected the charge that her party was not serious in solving the Punjab problem. She pointed out that before the 1980 elections, the Janata Party and Lok Dal were in power for 3 years at the center and in Punjab there was an Akali government. Nothing was done during that period. She explained at length the details of the prolonged negotiations with the Akali leaders and the difficulties faced at every stage in reaching agreement on the territorial question and sharing of [river] waters. She had warned the Akali leaders of the danger that the agitation might be exploited by some elements to create chaos and violence.

Referring to the Kar Sewa [voluntary community service] undertaken at the Golden Temple, the prime minister denied that it was a move to divide the Sikhs. The repair to the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion] had to be organized as the government received information that the Akali Dal is planning to keep the building in a damaged condition as a source of eternal bitterness between the two communities of Punjab. Mrs Gandhi categorically denied that she had ever shared a platform with Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale during the assembly elections in Punjab in 1980. She said nobody built him up and it is the situation that built up a person and they took advantage of it. It is even doubtful whether he was really in control of the situation himself. There were forces that were behind him. Some of these forces may be within the country and some outside [sentence as heard].

Rejecting the criticism that the White Paper had not given all the facts, Mrs Gandhi said the document contained a fair statement of facts. This is the framework of any White Paper.

Further on Proceedings

BK241418 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, has said that she was firm in her mind that no part of India can be allowed to separate and no religious place can be converted into an arsenal and sanctuary for criminals. Intervening in the discussion on the White Paper on Punjab in the upper house of Parliament today, Mrs Gandhi said what has happened in the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar cannot be allowed to be repeated. The prime minister pointed out that some powerful forces in the world were working not only against India but also against her. She said that India was the most advanced among the developing countries, and despite poverty it has been marching forward. This has led to certain forces to work against India, she said.

Earlier, the discussion started in the upper house when the minister of state for home, Mr Venkatasubbiah, moved the motion. Participating in the discussion, Mr L.K. Advani of Bharatiya Janata Party criticized the White Paper as not comprehensive and candid.

Government Affidavit Denies Managing Sikh Temples

BK250752 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] The union government has denied in the Supreme Court that the Army or any governmental authority has taken over control and management of the gurdwaras [Sikh temples] in Punjab. In an affidavit, the government categorically stated that the Sikhs were never prevented from performing Kar Sewa [voluntary community service] in the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar. The affidavit said an organization like the SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, Sikh temples management committee] could not be exclusively entrusted with

the work of repairs to the damaged building, as they had actively allowed extremist activity within the temple premises. Besides, the government wants to ensure that the condition that prevailed earlier does not recur and these premises are not used for piling up arms and for harboring criminals. The affidavit was filed in reply to a petition moved by Mr (Bhupendar Singh).

AFP Reports Tripura Clash, Arunachal Alert

OW241942 Hong Kong AFP in English 1900 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] New Delhi, July 24 (Afp) — Seven people were injured in a clash between security forces and hit squads of militant separatists in India's northeastern state of Tripura today, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported.

The clash followed an attempted ambush by the outlawed Tripura National Volunteers (TNV) of the car carrying the State Assembly Deputy Speaker, Bimal Sinha through the Baramula hills in the west district, about 35 kms (21 miles) from Agartala, capital of the state, bordering Bangladesh.

The injured were two Tripura armed policemen and five labourers, PTI said and added that Mr Sinha escaped unhurt.

Pti said the TNV subsequently attempted to over-run the Baramuara police outpost on the state owned Oil and Natural Gas Commission complex, firing with sophisticated weapons. The police fired back and the militants fled, PTI said.

This was the second attack in 24 hours in the west district by the extremists, believed to be the same group which was involved in yesterday's bid to storm the Takarjala police station.

All outposts and police stations along the vital Assam-Agartala highway were put on alert, PTI said.

In Arunachal Pradesh, also in the northeast, PTI said the Army and paramilitary forces along the border with Tripap District of Arunachal Pradesh and Burma had been put on partial alert to check infiltration from across the frontier of "undesirable elements" who are believed to be involved in a number of violent incidents in the district.

T.V. Rajeswar, governor of Arunachal Pradesh, [words indistinct] the border area, said the Army and paramilitary forces had intensified their patrols. The forces had decided to set up new posts in vulnerable points to prevent the entry of any Burmese nationals. The border had been temporarily sealed and all transit passes cancelled, Mr Rajeswar said.

Officials said that upper Burma, [word indistinct], Arunachal Pradesh, and Nagaland had been the sanctuary of various insurgent groups, including pro-China Muivah and [words indistinct] underground elements, which were trying to expand their activities in the area.

Underground elements used to cross the border in disguise and the recent killings of two persons, including the chief of Longpong Village, were believed to be their acts, the officials said.

Delhi on Tripura Attack

BK250748 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] In Tripura, there was an exchange of fire between a group of extremists and the police at Baramura yesterday. Six persons, including one police constable, were injured. Our Agartala correspondent reports that the extremist group also fired upon the escort party of the deputy speaker of the state legislative assembly. No one was injured. The deputy speaker, Mr Bimal Sinha, escaped unhurt.

Specialist Discusses Domestic Nuclear Situation

BK220306 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 16 Jul 84 pp 1, 5

[By Rajendra Prabhu]

[Text] New Delhi, July 15 — The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) "will not let down the country" if it needs uranium enrichment, according to BARC Director P.K. Iyengar.

Dr Iyengar was replying to a specific query during an interview with him in his office in Bombay recently, whether in a situation where India may need to go in for uranium enrichment, one could count on our own research and development to come to the country's aid.

"Our R&D knows what is involved," Dr Iyengar said, pointing out that BARC's capabilities had been demonstrated by the fact that it has mastered the fuel cycle that would enable the country to extend its nuclear fuel resources manyfold. He explained how BARC had developed such frontier processes like reprocessing of plutonium from spent fuel, use of a plutonium-uranium carbide fuel in fast breeders, and lately the conversion of thorium into a uranium isotope U-233 and its utilisation as a nuclear fuel.

"India is one of the few countries, particularly in the developing world, that have the know-how of the fuel cycle," Dr Iyengar added. With this, its uranium and thorium natural resource could be made use of repeatedly in suitable reactors to release energy and generate power.

On the question of uranium enrichment, Dr Iyengar said: "The question is only of industrial scale transfomation and installing facility which generally takes five years. "Even though enrichment is not in our line, we should pursue it even though light water reactor may not be economical. Crux of the problem is enrichment. If it is cheap, then light water reactor which has certain advantages becomes more economical." "We should keep watching the situation," Dr Iyengar replied when asked what should be the Indian choice.

Explaining how BARC had kept itself far ahead of the country's requirements in nuclear matters, Dr Iyengar said that a decision to acquire the technique of reprocessing spent fuel to obtain plutonium was taken in 1958 and the first plutonium plant came up in 1964. This had enabled us to have our own reprocessing and plutonium extraction plants without any dependence on foreign technology. A larger reprocessing plant is now working in Tara-

pur and another is under construction at Kalpakkam near Madras.

Yet another technological breakthrough was the use of thorium as nuclear fuel. While uranium resources in the country might not exceed 60,000 tonnes at best, we have an already discovered base of five lakh tonnes of thorium in Kerala and Orissa alone and more was likely to be discovered. The BARC succeeded in converting the non-fissile thorium into fissile U-233 which is again a rare feat. "We put thorium in Cyrus reactor in Trombay to get U-233," Dr Iyengar explained giving its details. "We then reprocessed the thorium to extract the converted U-233 from it. Even though it is similar to plutonium, it is also toxic, emitting considerable gamma ray radiation. We got this U-233 and did some experiments for understanding its physical structure."

A new reactor Purnima-II was used for this study of U-233. This isotope of uranium does not exist in natural state but is the most fissile among the three isotopes of uranium. U-233 in a reactor could be used to produce plutonium and emit heat which could generate power, and plutonium in turn could be reused as a fuel thus completing a cycle, each chain in which would generate fuel for the next chain.

In an exciting experiment at the Reactor Research Centre at Kalpakkam, BARC will be testing out its U-233 using a high neutron flux of the fast breeder to do its radiography in a small equipment named "Kamini" lowered in the reactor vessel of the Fast Breeder Test Reactor [FBTR] there which is nearing completion. All this is in preparation for using U-233 in the third generation reactors of future. The BARC has perfected the mixed plutonium-uranium carbide fuel for the FBTR and the first fuel rods are ready for shipment to Kalpakkam. The FBTR would open up the series of 500 MW fast breeders of the next decade, the second generation reactors in the fuel-cycle.

The development of the plutonium-uranium carbide fuel by the BARC has helped India free itself from any dependence on the highly enriched uranium fuel for this FBTR which France had promised but was unwilling to undertake. In the process, the FBTR now would be free of any obligation of being inspected by the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Atomic Energy Commission apparently hopes to protect and further our nuclear independence. The thermal reactor atKalpakkam, the first unit of the Madras atomic power project as it is known, is the second facility in the country beyond the prying eyes of international inspection (the first being the Cyrus reactor at Trombay).

The BARC is going to help zealously protect this independence and self-reliance. Dr Iyenger said that the FBTR would use only the plutonium extracted from the spent fuel of Cyrus which is not udner international inspection. As for the plutonium from the two nuclear power plants under international inspection, namely the Tarapur and Rajsthan nuclear power plants, a new scheme is being evolved.

Under the new scheme, the BARC had developed the technology to put the plutonium generated in the spent fuel in these two projects, back into these very reactors to obtain the second generation fuel for them. This was the MOX fuel, the development of which made the international nuclear community to sit up and take note of India's capability. With MOX in which plutonium replaced U-235 for "enrichment" of natural uranium, an indigenous fuel could replace the imported fuel for the Tarapur plant. Even though imported fuel is now assured, the BARC is looking upon a time in the near future when MOX would replace this fuel in the reactor.

The plutonium extracted at present from the spent fuel rods at Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant [RAPP] would be converted into MOX to be used in the same plant at a later stage. The BARC also further plans to use thorium as part of that fuel to obtain U-233. "RAPP can use plutonium as fuel," says Dr Iyengar, thereby opening an entirely new chapter in the further extension of India's natural uranium resources even in thermal reactors. "If you put one to two per cent plutonium in natural uranium, then it lasts longer (as a fuel)."

Southern African Liberation Movements Supported

BK241157 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0909 GMT 24 Jul 84

["Statement by the Government of India on the Southern African Situation on 23 July 1984" — ISI headline]

[Text] "The government of India has noted developments in the southern African region over the past few months. These developments have resulted in critical changes in the situation prevailing in the area. The Government of India has always believed that the root cause of the problems faced by the southern African region is the practice of apartheid by the regime in South Africa, which has led to aggression and attempts at destabilization of states bordering South Africa.

The government of India has always supported, and will continue to support, the liberation movements in South Africa and Namibia, by extending to them political, moral, diplomatic and material support in accordance with its capacity. It reiterates its support for the UN Security Council Resolution 435 as the basis for working out the independence of Namibia, and, at the same time, rejects any attempt to link this independence process to matters concerning the internal affairs of other states. The government of India supports the views and decisions arrived at by the African Frontline States after their meeting in Arusha on 29 April 1984, and calls upon like-minded countries to express their solidarity with the liberation movements.

OAU Delegation Meets With Leaders on South Africa

BK241428 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] A 5-member delegation from the Organization of African Unity, now in New Delhi, met the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, for the second time yesterday. It was led by the Angolan vice minister for foreign affairs, Mr Venancio Dasilva Mouro. During its stay, the delegation met and apprised the Indian leaders of the recent developments in South Africa.

Zia on Incidents With Indian Troops in Kashmir

BK231736 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Excerpts] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq has reiterated that the elections will be free, fair, and impartial so that honest and competent people could come up to run the affairs of the country. He was talking to newsmen on his arrival at Karachi airport this evening on a 2-day visit.

In reply to a question, the president said irrespective of mutual agreement, all countries are expected to look after their minorities. As we look after the welfare of the minorities in Pakistan, we expect the same from India.

The president said there were sometimes incidents of firing across the line of control in Kashmir, but there is absolutely no cause for concern. He said Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has already given details in the Majlis-i-Shoora [Federal Advisory Council] about the glacier incident. He said we want to solve the problem peacefully and amicably.

Commentary on Beijing Banquet for Yaqub Khan

BK250734 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1715 GMT 24 Jul 84

[G.M. Mansoori Commentary]

[Text] Pakistan's foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, who is presently on an official visit to the PRC, said in Beijing yesterday that Pakistan's stand for a comprehensive settlement of the Afghanistan problem and to achieve that end supports the efforts of the UN secretary general and that Pakistan will participate in the third round of indirect talks to be held in Geneva next month.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan was speaking at a banquet which the Chinese foreign minister hosted in his honor. He told the distinguished gathering that the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, now in its 5th year, in terms of total loss of life continues to blight the prospects of the world peace and detente. The Afghanistan crisis, he said, can and should be resolved on the basis of four principles endorsed by the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Conference, and the Nonaligned Movement. The Pakistan foreign minister said that Pakistan would not recognize the Kabul regime of Babrak Karmal until the foreign troops were withdrawn from Afghanistan and the Afghan refugees — over 3 million in Pakistan — were consulted on conditions for their voluntary return in safety and honor. He said that Pakistan was providing humanitarian relief to Afghanistan and its refugees will [as heard] continue to render this service until such time the Afghan problem was resolved.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, during his assertion of the world situation, said that the international situation was beset with dangerous conflicts and confrontations. Nuclear arms race, he said, has escalated, and at a time when dialogue was necessary the talks on arms limitations had stalled.

Referring to the Middle East situation, he said that for peace in that region Israel must end its policy of aggression and tension and recognize the right of the Palestinian people to (?establish) their homeland.

On Kampuchean problem, the Pakistan foreign minister said that Pakistan stand for the right of Kampuchean people to determine their own future free of any outside interference. It was the right of Kampuchean people to decide freely their political and social system. Pakistan's stand was based on this principle and it wants the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from that country and supports the struggle of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea under the leadership of Prince Sihanouk.

About Pakistan-China relations, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that the people of Pakistan had followed with great interest the strides of the people of China in all walks of national life. He further said that he was confident that the people of China will achieve the goal of full modernization and in their successes will make greater contribution to world peace and progress.

Earlier, in his welcome address, the Chinese foreign minister, Mr Wu Xueqian, said that settlement of the Afghanistan problem should be worked out on a just and reasonable basis and such a political settlement must ensure unconditional and complete withdrawal of foreign troops and the independence and sovereignty of Afghanistan should be fully guaranteed.

Mr Wu Xueqian further said that China was ready to join its Pakistani friends in continued and concerted efforts to carry forward steadily the [words indistinct] and cooperation between the two countries. He said that there existed a profound traditional friendship between China and Pakistan and the visit of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq to China and President Li Xiannian to Pakistan were most fruitful and the two sides hold identical views on major international issues, which reflects respect and trust for each other.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, replying to his host, said that his fourth visit to China would serve to emphasize the existing close cooperation between Pakistan and China and contribute to peace and stability in the neighborhood. He added that there were no differences between Pakistan and China. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that the friendship highway linking the two countries across colossal Karakoram Mountains has enlarged the cooperation in diverse fields between them. The Pakistan-China friendship was not directed against any country and both the countries were engaged in endeavors to solve the differences with their respective neighbors through conciliation and dialogue. He thanked China, a developing country itself, for extending generous assistance to Pakistan in its program of industrialization.

NEPAL

AFP: District Legislators Arrested in Hunger Strike

BK231359 Hong Kong AFP in English 1313 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Katmandu, July 23 (AFP) — Police have arrested three active Panchayat (legislature) leaders for staging a hunger strike in front of the National Assembly hall yesterday, a national Panchayat source said today.

The three Panchayat [words indistinct] from Sankhuwasabha District, 290 kilometers (180 miles) northeast of Katmandu, had started the hunger strike demanding that the land under the private trust system which was abolished in 1959 be registered in the names of the 417 families of Madi Ramweti and Madi Mulkhark areas in their district.

The hunger strikers reportedly said, "We were compelled to go on hunger strike because the families who have been fighting at the court in connection with the land for the last 13 years had lost their case."

The hunger strikers included pradhan panchas (chieftains) of Madi village panchayat of Sankhuwa Sabha, the source said.

Briefs

Foreign Trade Increases — Katmandu, July 23 (AFP) — The high level Export Materials and Export Promotion Council today held its first meeting chaired by Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand and expressed satisfaction about the increase in Nepal's foreign trade. According to a press communique issued by the Commerce Ministry today, the volume of Nepal's export in the first ten months of fiscal 1983-84 had increased by 56.8 percent compared to the corresponding period of fiscal 1982-83. The communique added that "the trade deficit had increased by merely 6.4 percent because of the appropriate measures taken to regulate import." During fiscal 1982-83, export had declined by 22.3 percent and import had increased by 26.6 percent, causing the trade deficit to go up by 48.2 percent compared to that of fiscal 1981-82. The council has also laid down guidelines to boost export in a systematic manner and issued instructions to immediately carry out measures under the nine-point programme, announced by the government last September but either not carried out or delayed. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 1058 GMT 23 Jul 84 BK]

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Proposes Second Legislative Chamber

BK241305 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] All-party conference met in plenary yesterday at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, Colombo. President Jayewardene proposed that a second legislative chamber be formed. This chamber will consist of members representing the 25 districts. The president stated that the district council is the only subnational unit at structural level and there could not be the creation of any larger provincial or regional unit. The second chamber would ensure interdistrict collaboration in well-defined spheres of activities. He said the chamber would act as a bridge between two contradictory and inflexible positions of regional councils and district councils. The president proposed that each district be represented in the chamber by two elected members. Twenty-five other members are to be appointed by the president, the parliament, and professional bodies. The president may choose Cabinet ministers and noncabinet ministers from the second chamber.

With regard to the powers and functions of the second chamber, it will have no authority over constitutional amendments, money bills, public security, foreign relations, and any other sensitive areas. Any power regarding legislation on the part of the second chamber should be confined mainly to a delaying (? power). The second chamber would examine a bill after it has been gazetted or at the first reading so that its views are known to parliament when the second reading is done. Outside an area of legislation, the second chamber could be useful as a forum for debate on various issues.

Delhi Calls Proposal 'Compromise'

BK240719 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka has presented a proposal to set up a second chamber in parliament. The proposal was presented at the all party round table conference which met in Colombo yesterday. The Tamil United Liberation Front [TULF] stayed away from the conference.

The president's proposal envisages a second chamber consisting of members representing the 25 districts. Cabinet ministers can be appointed from the second chamber, but it will have no power relating to constitutional amendments, money bills, public security and foreign relations. The proposal is a compromise between the rival Sinhala and TULF approaches for a settlement of the ethnic issue.

Bomb Explosions at Scene of 'Passive Protest'

BK251117 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] The satyagraha [passive protest] organized by the Tamil United Liberation Front [TULF] in the northern and eastern provinces yesterday fizzled out due to lack of public support. The satyagraha in Jaffna, which began at a Hindu temple, had to be abandoned in the afternoon following disturbances caused by certain youths who assembled there. When the satyagraha started at the temple, three bombs exploded nearby which caused great panic. There were about 200 people, including the TULF ex-parlimentarians and leaders, but it dwindled to about 25 in the afternoon. Reports from Batticaloa stated that the TULF could not muster a crowd to perform the satyagraha there.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,798

LD241732 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA — The Iranian forces, maintaining their superior fire-power in the northwestern and western battlefronts, killed or wounded over 64 Iraqi troops over the 24 hours preceding Tuesday, said the 1,798th communique of the Joint Staff Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces issued the same day.

In these operations, said the communique, the Islamic combatants also destroyed an Iraqi jeep equipped with a 106-mm gun, a machine gun, seven group bunkers and dug-outs and two watch posts.

The enemy sustained more losses and casualties in the Sumar and Meymak regions of the western theatre during the preceding 24 hours when three Iraqi patrol groups were spotted in the said regions by the Islamic forces who immediately routed the enemy.

Elsewhere, in the southern theatre, the Iraqi fortifications came under fire by the Iranian troops and the enemy sustained some casualties and damages particularly in the Fakah and Bajliyeh regions.

Abadan's residential quarters were again shelled by the Iraqi long-range artillery fire which damaged 5 more homes Monday.

50 Iraqi Casualties in Sumar Assault Attempt

LD241648 Tehran IRNA in English 1627 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Bakhtaran, July 24, IRNA — Fifty Iraqi troops were killed or wounded as their third desperate attempt in the Sumar region of Bakhtaran Province was severely smashed by the Muslim combatants of Iran over the past 24 hours.

Also, in this operation, the Islamic combatants, who immediately forced the enemy to retreat, destroyed an Iraqi jeep equipped with a 106-mm gun, a machine gun, seven group and individual bunkers as well as damaging some vehicles.

The first enemy attempt in the same region had been foiled a few days ago by the Iranian forces, who also crushed the second Iraqi desperate attempt inflicting heavy losses on the enemy on Sunday.

Meanwhile, artillery fire exchanges continued between the two sides in other western fronts with the Islamic defenders holding the upper hand during the same period.

Departure of Volunteers for Fronts Continues

GF250546 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] In a continuation of the departure of always-on-the-scene communities of our country for the fronts of the battle against the Zionist enemy, large groups of volunteers from mobilization and Guards Corps departments of Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad, Gilan, Mazandaran, and Khorasan Provinces and cities of Shiraz, Jahrom, Karaj, Khorramabad, Dorud, Khoy, and Kashan left for the battle fronts during the past 2 days.

Tehran Commentary Analyzes Stance on War

GF210726 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Jul 84

[Unattributed commentary by the research group of the Central News Unit: "The Imposed War and Our Stance"]

[Excerpts] The imposed war which the Ba'thist Iraqi regime has thrust upon the Muslim people of Iran with the overall support of the superpowers is now in its 46th month. During this period the aggressive enemy has (?availed itself) of all the massive political, economic, and military possibilities [passage indistinct].

Many are of the opinion that the trend of rivalry between two superpowers is an adequate deterrent to a nuclear war. It is natural that there should be secret agreements, and covert negotiations regarding the destiny of nations are unavoidable. It is for this reason that the world is witnessing an unsurpassed unanimity between two superpowers on the imposed war. The present (?attitude) in the course of the past 46 months is a proof of this. But it should be said that despite this unanimity and the active support for the aggressive Ba'thist Iraqi regime, which has been unique in its own way in the past 50 years, no change or disruption has appeared in the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy regarding the imposed war. This is due to the blessings of the widespread support of the Muslim Iranian masses who have had 200 bitter years of world exploitation and neoimperialism.

For logical reasons the people of Iran have never wanted war or warmongering. The trend of progress of nations and the halting of this progress due to the war is not a phenomenon to be treated casually by those at the helm of the state, or to be gambled away at the expense of the interests of the nation. They should not bow down to the prevailing atmosphere of moral or material pressure. History will pass its verdict in the not so distant future.

Hence, it is now necessary — in light of past experiences — for those who do not consider the continuation of this war as advantageous to the countries of the region to look again, sincerely and fairly, at the logical conditions of the Islamic Republic of Iran for ending the war. We believe that a repetition of what has been said is not harmless. [as heard] The Islamic Republic of Iran believes the Middle East region must be a zone of peace and security so that the nations may pursue their progress without fear. Those who have something to lose are not at all desirous of war. Any kind of war in the opulent Middle East takes place at the instigation of the powers. Besides bringing about innumerable losses of men and material, the 4-year-old war imposed by the puppet Iraqi regime on the Muslim nation of Iran is a major impediment to the establishment of peace and security in the region and the expansion of wholesome Islamic relations. This is an irreparable loss. If the countries of the region view this matter with indifference, they will be blatantly deceived in their path to development.

Therefore, we advocate an international legal procedure, according to which the aggressor will be brought to trial and sentenced.

The downfall of the aggressive criminal will mean the end of the war. Can it be denied that the crimes of the Ba'thist Iraqi troops against the civilian residents of the Iranian cities is a wholesale massacre? Is this claim that Saddam himself has perpetrated crimes against humanity false? The chemical and missile bombing of Iranians by the Iraqi Ba'thist Army is a blot on the emblems of the powers. It is natural that the issue of war reparations be resolved in an appropriate manner as spelled out in the repeated statements of the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials. If at present there are ears that hear, individually or collectively in the region, then they should once again hear these terms and conditions, but with justice and neutrality. Perhaps it will bring a change in their way of thinking.

The attitude of the Islamic Republic of Iran, despite the venomous propaganda of the exploitative powers, was not one of rudely rejecting every genuine effort. On the contrary, it has always condemned any satanism in the garb of sincerity. Our answer to those who are genuine is this: If today, due to the defeat of the U.S. Middle Eastern policy, nations of the region are contemplating a positive policy for the area, then the chances for peace in the region will increase more than ever, but only on the condition that the region is freed from the influence of any other power. A rapprochement on the imposed war among the actual nations of the region and their decision on the need for purging the area of the cancerous presence can aid in a speedy and prolonged peace in the area. This is an obligation that those who are sincere should feel. Today the situation in the Persian Gulf is such that its continuation is not to the benefit of any of the countries in the region. The creation of any desired equilibrium requires the littoral states of the Persian Gulf to develop an intensive and enlightened policy. The Ba'thist Iraqi regime, in its extreme disgrace and poverty and in its attempt to link the security of the Persian Gulf to the imposed war, wants to attribute its imminent destiny to the littoral states of the Persian Gulf. This is a trap that the neighboring states should be aware of.

The path the Islamic Republic of Iran has adopted is the goal of stability and prolonged peace in the region — a region free of the rivalry of the superpowers, one in which countries are able to continue living freely. If the countries of the region join us on this path, or at least support us, we shall accept them sincerely. Otherwise, we shall continue our struggle, the struggle of our powerful combatants who have covered the entire length of the fronts with their awe-inspiring presence until the attainment of the final victory over the Ba'thist-Zionist enemy!

Khamene'i Addresses Combatants Group on War

LD241001 Tehran IRNA in English 0945 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 24, Irna — President 'Ali Khamene'i stressed continuation of the Iraqi-imposed war until downfall of the aggressor regime of Iraq, and punishment of Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn.

The president, who also heads the Supreme Defence Council, made the remark in a meeting here this morning with a group of Islamic combatants, the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps members, and members of Jihad.

The world powers should not be hopeful that they would be able to defeat the Iranian nation through military, political and economic pressure, the president added. All such efforts in the past have proved annulled all these pressures and plots including the Iraqi-imposed war, he said. [sentence as received]

On the Iraqi-imposed war the head of the Supreme Defence Council said that the Iraqi Army which was said to be one of the most powerful in the region, has now become so intimidated by the Islamic forces. The Iraqi forces who have been forced to remain in warfronts, wish either to be captured by the Iranian forces or that the Iranian forces would gain the final victory so that the Iraqi personnel could return to their homes, he added.

Further on the war, he said that the world politicians have admitted that have misunderstood the Islamic Republic of Iran and have underestimated its power. They also regret for having made the Iraqi ruler to launch the war against Iran while the Iraqi regime and all its supporters regret for having started the conflict.

However, the question is the damages caused to the Iranian people, the Iranian Revolution and also the Iraqi nation who would be responsible for these damages, he asked. "We believe that as long as the present Iraqi regime remains in power, there is possibility of further damages." He added that one could not reach peace with a thief or make a deal with an aggressor.

The world has experienced that as long as an aggressive regime is in power in a region, there would be no peace, Khamene'i noted. Drawing a parallel between the Iraqi ruler and Hitler, he said that as long as Hitler was in power, there was no peace in Europe.

Peace would not make any sense as long as an aggressive regime remained in power, and another example of this was the existance of the Zionist regime, Khamene'i said, adding that an aggressor was like a germ which if not completely eradicated, would procreate itself.

Further in his speech the president reiterated that the Islamic Republic of Iran would not tolerate the Iraqi regime. "We consider punishment of Saddam and engineers of the war one of the major responsibilities of Iran and other countries of the region," he emphasised.

This is the firm decision of the Islamic Republic of Iran and more than any other time, we have the ability to make this logic and righteous stance be understood.

Envoy to Syria Meets With Khomeyni

LD241222 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Mr 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, Iranian ambassador to Syria, was received by the leader of the Islamic Revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran this morning for talks. In reply to a question put to him by our correspondent after this meeting on the importance to the Islamic Republic of Iran of the political situation in the Middle East Arab region, Mr Mohtashemi said: The good news I can bring our Muslim nation is

that the rays of the Islamic Revolution of Iran have fortunately reached areas beyond the borders of our country. Muslim nations, inspired by the great leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeyni, and the martyr-nurturing nation of Iran, have risen against blasphemy in the world. American imperialism, and Zionism and are moving forward to the borders of martyrdom. The repeated blows dealt against the rotten corps of the Lebanese regime and the occupying regime of Palestine by the courageous youths of Islam in southern Lebanon; the victories achieved by Muslim combatants against multinational forces, especially those of the United States; and Islamic movements in Moroccan, Egyptian and other universities inAfrican and Arabic countries which have frightened the superpowers and the reactionary regimes in those countries, are clear examples of the effects the Islamic Revolution has had on the other side of the borders of our country.

Mr Mohtashemi added: Muslim nations all over the world and oppressed and deprived nations in northern and southern America, Africa, and Asia are looking toward the imam of the nation and seek his guidance. They are all waiting for the decisive victory of the Islamic Republic of Iran against the Zionist regime of Saddam and against the Zionist regime occupying Palestine and the destruction of all colonialists.

Minister Banki Comments on Budget, War Morale

LD221406 Tehran IRNA in English 1132 GMT 22 Jul 84

[Text] Ahvaz, July 22, IRNA — The minister of state in charge of plan and budget organisation, Mohammad Taqi Banki, said here Saturday that a 14-billion-rial budget (dls. 157.3 million) has been allocated for the southern province of Khuzestan for the current Iranian year (started last March).

Banki who was speaking after a visit to warfront and meeting with the Islamic combatants, praised high morale of the Islamic forces in battle fields.

Further commenting on the active participation of the Irqi Muslim mujahideen in warfronts, Banki said that he was impressed with presence of the mujahideen who were fighting alongside the Iranian forces and hoped that such a cooperation would speed up final victory of the Iranian forces in the Iraq-imposed war.

Further commenting on the budget, he said that the budget for reconstruction projects throughout the country is 60 billion rials (dls. 673 million) which is supervised through the headquarters for reconstruction.

India's Deputy External Affairs Minister Arrives

LD241009 Tehran IRNA in English 0932 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA — The deputy for external affairs minister of India, Ramesh Bhandari, arrived in Tehran early this morning. The Indian official was welcomed at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport by the deputy for international affairs of the Iranian Foreign Affairs Ministry, Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam.

Meets With Sheykh ol-Eslam

LD242003 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Ramesh Bhandari, deputy external affairs minister of India, started the first round of his discussions with Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, political under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of our country, this afternoon. In this meeting the bilateral relations in political and economic fields, the situation in the region, and recent developments, as well as preliminary issues concerning the joint commission between the two countries were discussed.

In this meeting Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam in a speech emphasized: As the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement it is necessary for India to condemn the Iraqi regime for making use of chemical weapons, especially after that regime's not responding to the proposal about not using those weapons.

In a meeting with the under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in charge of consular and cultural issues, the Indian deputy external affairs minister also talked about the bilateral cultural issues, facilities for visits by the subjects of the two countries, and the provision of better facilities for Iranian students studying in India.

Talks With Velayati

LD242215 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] The Indian deputy foreign affairs minister who is visiting Iran met with Foreign Minister Velayati today. In this meeting, which was also attended by the political under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Indian ambassador in Tehran, there were discussions about the expansion and strengthening of bilateral relations and issues concerning the Nonaligned Movement. Referring to the fact that Iran and India are two important members of the Nonaligned Movement, the Indian deputy foreign affairs minister emphasized the need for the expansion of political, economic, and cultural relations between the two countries, and expressed India's readiness for the second joint commission between the two countries which will be held in New Delhi next month.

Referring to the long history of relations between Iran and India and the existence of various avenues for the expansion and strengthening of bilateral relations, Velayati emphasized: On the basis of the principles of its foreign policy and despite pressures from big powers, the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue to expand relations with Third World and nonaligned countries, and attaches a great deal of importance to them. Referring to the recent conspiracy of the Iraqi regime and its supporters to expand the scope of the war in the region, Velayati said: Iran is against creating tension in the region and will emphatically confront this imperialist conspiracy. Iran is determined to eliminate the cause of instability in this sensitive region of the world.

Education Minister Najafi Meets GDR Official

LD241539 Tehran IRNA in English 1505 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA — Deputy higher education minister of the German Democratic Republic (GDR), Professor Garscha, who arrived here Monday heading a cultural delegation, met and conferred with the Iranian culture and higher education minister, Mohammad 'Ali Najafi Tuesday morning.

In this meeting, Najafi stressed the importance of the mutual scientific, cultural and technical cooperation between the two countries. He added that the Islamic Republic of Iran believed that further scietific, educational and technical cooperations among countries having different cultures, would lead to better understanding among the nations.

On the status of the universities after the revolution, Najafi said that programmes of the universities have been adjusted to the needs of the country's Islamic culture. He added that the universities have started their work with very high level capacity.

In response Professor Garscha expressed his country's willingness for joint scientific and technical cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Prosecutor Warns Women To Observe Islamic Law

LD241212 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] The Public Prosecutor of Tehran has issued a statement in connection with the Islamic observance of covering in public places and gatherings. The statement says:

Following complaints and protests made by the Hezbollah nation, and to honor the blood of the noble martyrs and to stop violations ofthe proper observance of Islamic principles governing cothing, violations which increase corruption and offend public decency, the Public Prosecutor of Tehran announces that all officials of government departments, companies, other government and private offices and organizations, officials in charge of public places like hotels, inns, halls, and clubs where wedding receptions are held, restaurants, and other public places are legally bound to stop women who do not observe the proper Islamic covering and veil from entering those places beginning on the date of this statement. Officials in charge of such public places, organizations, and companies who are indifferent toward implementing this Islamic principle will themselves be sued, and the offenders will be dealt with according to the law. Women are also cautioned that they should honor the wish of the absolute majority of the noble nation of Iran and should follow the above-mentioned regulations. Otherwise, they will be dealt with according to legal and religious regulations.

Embassy in Ankara Denies Report of Executions

TA241625 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1600 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] The embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Ankara has issued a statement in connection with reports that 41 persons have been executed in Iran because of their membership in the People's Fighters Organization. The statement says that allegations made by the organization's leader in exile in Paris are unfounded. The statement further draws attention to the fact that the organization in question has claimed responsibility for many bloody acts of terror.

Paper on Western Press Attempts to Influence Region

GF221930 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 9 Jul 84 p 11

[Text] Whenever the West wants to put pressure on a nation or a revolution, it resorts to the imperialist press. Because on this, the imperialist press from the victory of the Islamic Revolution to the present has been opposing the Islamic Revolution with all its might and has continued to say that this revolution is a great threat to the entire region. Jane's *DEFENSE WEEKLY* in Britain, which specializes in military affairs, reported that Iran will be able to manufacture nuclear weapons within the next 2 years.

William Casey, director of the CIA, in an interview with *U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT*, said that the Islamic Revolution was a threat to the region. Similarly, Richard Murphy during his visit to the region, while exchanging views and holding discussions with reactionary leaders in the Middle East region, stressed campaigning against the influence of winds blowing from Iran. It is no secret that world oppressors, by such insinuations and baseless propaganda, wish to create fear in the minds of reactionary leaders of this region. Then they will fan these fears. All this is done to enable the United States and its Western allies to keep the Islamic region of the Middle East in a perpetual state of turmoil and a huge market for the sale of their modern arms.

Similarly, the Western press with its baseless rumors about the Islamic Republic of Iran try to make people forget the question of the occupation of south Lebanon by the Zionists and thus make it appear to be a problem of no consequence.

At present, the imperialist press has devoted all its energy to the Persian Gulf region.

One should keep in mind the fact that the oppresser's press has been for the past few months engaged in preparing the ground for the occupation of the oil wells of the shaykhs of the Persian Gulf region. Of course, they hope that the occupation of the Persian Gulf oil wells will serve two purposes — controlling the oil and quelling the hatred and hostility of the nations of the region. The Western press is anxious that every political move against the worthless courts of the region and the Arab world be blamed on the Islamic Republic so that it can be crushed. The Western press labels every noble and popular move and every liberation effort in the Arab world as "terrorism" and "fundamentalism". It thinks that in this way it can prepare the ground for a confrontation with the world Islamic movement.

The imperialist press tries to keep the widespread war crimes of Iraq hidden from the eyes of the world. It has so far not given up its inclination tc keep hidden the chemical and biological weap-

ons used by Iraq in the war and in its attacks on tankers in the Persian Gulf. The West hopes that in this way it can give Zionist Saddam a free hand to continue his crimes against humanity.

For a long period the imperialist press has been trying to put this false idea in the heads of the palace-living shaykhs of the region: The fate of the courts of the region is linked with the Saddam's war against the Islamic Republic of Iran. What is the reason for this?

Undoubtedly, the West thinks that it can in this way encourage the Arab reactionaries to support the criminals ruling Iraq or even coerce them into doing so.

Even now, with the West dependent on Persian Gulf oil, the Western press wishes to stir up the war and fish in the muddy waters. It is certain that the cultural and historical differences between the Arab nations of the region and the West, led by the United States,on one hand, and the deep feeling of solidarity of the Muslim nations with Islam and the Islamic Revolution on the other, will nullify all the plans of the Western mass media. Every force which tries to block the hurricane of the Islamic Revolution will certainly be destroyed.